

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 2 - 2024-25

1056. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police over the second quarter of 2024-25. The report also provided statistical information in relation to various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period together with comparative statistics for the corresponding period in 2022-23.

Chief Inspector Gallie reported on the performance of the police against the five local policing priorities contained in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2023-26, summarising the information contained within the report.

Chief Inspector Gallie provided some examples of the work being done in East Renfrewshire by officers of Police Scotland on all of the areas of focus covered, which were highlighted within the report.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which Superintendent Carr and Chief Inspector Gallie responded to a number of questions and provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire and the crime statistics recorded in the report.

In particular, they provided information about the progress in acquiring body cam technology for Police in the East Renfrewshire area, indicating that this would come in a phased rollout, starting with firearms officers and eventually rolling out to all officers. Police Scotland would provide further updates on this as the rollout commenced. Superintendent Carr gave further information on the robust training programme for officers regarding the use of this technology, which would follow the established guidance and code of ethics.

Focus was placed on the number of missing persons reported in East Renfrewshire, with Chief Inspector Gallie indicating that these were mainly vulnerable individuals. He indicated that all of those people had been subsequently found with no significant harm. He also reassured members around the use of CCTV and partnership working to help prevent suicides on railways in East Renfrewshire. He indicated that 1700 officers had been trained to provide interventions that aim to reduce any repeat of such incidents.

Chief Inspector Gallie provided information around reported parking and road traffic issues around Kirkhill Primary School, assuring members that the issues around road safety at schools were subject of ongoing work and discussions with Head Teachers and other partners. The Director of Business Operations and Partnerships committed to discuss particular issues around Kirkhill Primary School with relevant Council officers in order to affect a suitable solution and reassured members that these issues were the subject of ongoing review within the Council and any areas of concern would be addressed where identified.

Chief Inspector Gallie also confirmed that “Ring” doorbell footage was admissible in terms of evidence for Police, as it was not considered a public space recording. He also provided further details on the work being undertaken by Police Scotland to support the 16 days of activism against gender based violence, indicating that the meeting was taking place on day 4 of those 16 days. In particular, he highlighted initiatives taking place in schools to educate young boys on the issues around gender base violence and the behaviours associated with it.

Members were also provided assurances on reported hate crimes, which were now part of reporting following the introduction of new legislation. Those crimes reported in the quarter showed no clear trend in terms of type or particular protected characteristic which was

targeted more than any other. They indicated that they would look to give more contextual information on this in future reports, as more data was received. Members were encouraged by the high detection rates of those crimes.

Thereafter, Cabinet noted the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2024-25

1057. The Cabinet considered a report by the Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the second quarter of 2024-25 against the key priorities in their local plan.

Introducing the report, Area Commander Murphy thanked the Council, Police Scotland and other partners for their work over the period, particularly over bonfire night. He also indicated that, following a recent recommendation by the Cabinet, future reports would include more contextual information to highlight the positive work being undertaken by Scottish Fire and Rescue within East Renfrewshire.

Group Commander Coughtrie then reported on the performance of SFRS on performance over quarter 2, summarising the information provided in the report, remarking on the low activity levels and no real concerns in terms of the figures.

Thereafter, he presented the statistical information contained within the report.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which officers Murphy and Coughtrie responded to a number of questions and comments on a range of issues recorded in the report.

Councillor Pragnell, on behalf of Provost Montague, thanked the officers present for their work with Provost Montague on the “Restart a Heart” campaign held in October. This initiative saw 55 local people successfully trained in CPR and defibrillator techniques at Barrhead and Clarkston Fire Stations. In response, Group Commander Coughtrie noted that more sessions were being considered due to the event’s popularity, and further information would be made available once arrangements were in place.

Group Commander Coughtrie provided a brief update on the festive campaigns being undertaken by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and Area Commander Murphy spoke on the particular dangers of the period around use of unsafe lights and decorations, as well as the general increase in the consumption of alcohol and weather related issues on the roads.

Details were provided of support being offered to both Council and private sheltered housing accommodation in order to assist vulnerable residents in avoiding fire related incidents. A three-year programme had been introduced to deliver training and information for residents and staff at such complexes, and a number of high risk Home Fire Safety Visits were being carried out to improve the safety of those accommodations and assist vulnerable residents.

Group Commander Coughtrie also indicated that there had been an increase in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in educational facilities, and work was ongoing to provide training and information to the appropriate officers to ensure these were reduced.

Group Commander Coughtrie also responded to questions around non-fire related incidents in the Barrhead area, indicating that the incidents recorded were not connected or indicative of a wider issue there.

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Finally Area Commander Murphy indicated that Scottish Fire and Rescue were satisfied with the expertise, equipment and training available to its officers on road safety response, particularly with reference to the M77 corridor that ran through East Renfrewshire. He pointed out that all appliances were equipped to respond to such incidents and he was confident that, despite ongoing budget pressures, the current provision was adequate.

Thereafter the Cabinet agreed to note the report.

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

This being the last scheduled meeting of the Committee in the year, the Chair wished all those present his best wishes for the festive season.

CHAIR